

# AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 8/2/22 ITEM NO. RA 32

August 1, 2022

Dear Supervisor Bronson,

My name is Maryann Risvik and I was fortunate to be a winner of a social equity license. I must work on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, but wanted to share my support for Pima County staff's recommendation for an updated marijuana ordinance.

I am 34 years old and the proud mother of five children.

I qualified for the social equity program because my parents were convicted under old marijuana laws. My father was caught making medical marijuana to help my mother treat chronic pain she experienced after a work related injury. The police came to our home, separated our family and I was put into foster care. I will never forget that horrible day.

**My life was forever changed because my father was caught doing something that is now legal.**

After hearing about the Your Bright Horizon program, I became excited for the opportunity to potentially be able to open a dispensary and to also receive assistance for my father, in order to get his marijuana charge expunged. I decided to work for Your Bright Horizon, so I could share this opportunity with others. I knocked on doors, walked through parking lots, stood on light rail platforms and handed out flyers at community events to let others know how to apply for the social equity program.

The Your Bright Horizon program helped me complete the social equity application and submit documents. We created a partnership and the program paid my \$4,000 application fee. I am thankful for this partnership because I don't think I could have done this without their help. On April 8, 2022, I watched the social equity lottery and felt blessed when I saw my application number get selected.

**The social equity opportunity has the potential to change my family's life for the better.**

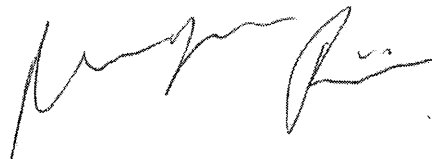
Since then, I have been working with Your Bright Horizon and my legal team to get a dispensary open in the next 18 months. We have talked about how I can learn skills – ranging from production to marketing to management – that will make my dispensary a success. We have discussed possible locations for the store. I am very excited about the prospect of starting a business in Pima County.

Marijuana should be treated like any other retail business. Any unnecessary roadblocks in the way of opening a store will cost significant amounts of money that my new business does not have. I am also worried about the time required to renovate a retail location – if I don't open before October 2023, DHS has told me that my social equity license will be revoked.

**I hope you will pass the marijuana ordinance that staff has recommended.**

Sincerely,

Maryann Risvik



AUG 01 12:28 PM 0254 PC CLK OF BD

MW